

The Sun

AND NEW YORK PRESS.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1917.

MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS.
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Entered at the Post Office at New York as Second Class Matter.

Subscriptions by Mail, Postpaid.

DAILY, Per Month, \$3.00
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THE EVENING SUN, Per Month, \$1.00
THE EVENING SUN, Per Year, \$10.00
THE EVENING SUN (Foreign), Per Mo. \$1.50

All checks, money orders, etc., to be made payable to The Sun.

Published daily, including Sunday, by the Sun Printing and Publishing Association at 150 Nassau street, in the Borough of Manhattan, New York.

Managers: J. M. McKim, President; J. M. McKim, Vice-President; J. M. McKim, Secretary.

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Brooklyn office, 1000 Broadway, 1000 Broadway, Brooklyn, N. Y.

San Francisco office, 1000 Market street, 1000 Market street, San Francisco, Cal.

Telephone, BECKMAN 1200.

At Judge Hylan's Request.

No man ever had a finer opportunity than Mayor Hylan will have now to prove the loyalty of his American heart and the sincerity of his pledge of absolute devotion to the war policies of our Government.

We exhibit again, at his request and for the sake of the record, this unqualified declaration, uttered immediately after his election:

"I want to make it plain to the world that there was no issue of Americanism or loyalty involved, so far as I am concerned. There could be none, for I am as good an American as any man, as loyal to my flag, as loyal to my country and as firm and determined in support of every act of the Government in this war as any man."

It was the misfortune of Judge Hylan's past associations, not the injustice of any political adversary or newspaper opposing his election, that made necessary this declaration. Happily for him and for his rating in the confidence of the people of New York, it will be entirely within Mayor Hylan's power to make plain to the world that he is.

Give him a fair show in this, as in all other respects, while he is making it plain.

The Strategy of Genius.

In the recent reconstruction of the Assembly districts Tammany Hall found itself with more district leaders than it had districts. Chief Murphy, whose policy it has been not to kick down stairs a leader who walks softly and carries his hat in his hand, let the surplus leaders keep their titles and crowns and packed them in together, with the result that eleven of the twenty-three districts now have more than one district leader. Even in the Twelfth, where the Boss has been the leader these twenty-five years, he admitted Leaders Cautise and Boyle to share his throne—the throne of the Assembly district, not of the Hall.

The results at the election were a tribute to Mr. Murphy's political genius. The districts in which there are three leaders rolled up the biggest vote for Hylan. The Fifth, where the Hon. Pete Dooling, the Hon. Tom McManus and the Hon. Johnny Cusack combined their intellects in one masterful mess, gave Hylan 8,551 votes, a majority over the combined vote of MICHAEL BENNETT and HILLQUIST of 4,506. The Third district, manned by CULLEN, GOODWIN and the veteran DALTON, was the banner district in total vote for Hylan, with 8,700, the majority being 4,533. Hylan polled 8,430 votes in Murphy's own district, 8,400 of these being majority votes.

Under the old system of one man to a district there would be only three leaders—instead of nine—to step up and modestly ask to be made City Chamberlain, Corporation Counsel and Police Commissioner, respectively. As things now stand, the simplest way out of it would be for Mr. Murphy to establish nine chamberlainships.

With such a record of success in triple headed districts, the Chief may be led to expand the system. If three leaders are so much more successful than one, why not make every captain a leader? Or every registered Democrat? What matters it how many names are on the list of the executive committee of Tammany Hall so long as the autocracy is impregnable?

The Building of the Ship.

"Exempt the shipwrights" has been the advice freely offered to the Government in these times of shipyard labor shortage; "exempt the ship workers as a class." It would be good enough counsel if there were any class of shipbuilders—if there were any great and thriving organization of shipyard hands. But the shipbuilding in this rush period is a matter of hiring men from other trades and making them over at the yards. The building of wooden ships has been especially difficult on this account.

There were few shipwrights to be found at the beginning of our war, unless the metal tradesmen in the great steel shipyards might be known

by that title. The building of a steel ship is a blacksmith's job; a wooden ship is a work of art, to say the least. How many wooden ships the Government is building or expects to build we are not told; the number, no doubt, depends somewhat on the labor supply. The wooden shipbuilding industry, then, must be a problematical undertaking at the start. It is recalled that some yards have taken on whole crews of green men—assorted carpenters and a little of everything else. A yard at Newburyport, Mass., was so desperate a few months ago that it bid for the services of 300 unemployed shoe workers in Lynn. Lasters and skivers and sole fasteners and such setting out to build a ship; sacrilege!

More fortunate is the case of the old shipbuilding towns where veteran shipbuilders survive. A happy example is Thomaston, Me., long ago famous for its sailing vessels. After half a generation of decay the old yard on the Georges River is alive again and the sound of the mallet echoes on that recently deserted waterfront. The workers are a surprising array, including a liberal sprinkling of grandfathers—men whose early ships are long since wrecked and gone; men who knew the trade in the days before steam rotted the smaller yards on the Maine coast. There are old boat men who retired to farms and odd jobs more than a score of years ago, or who went in for small boat and yacht building. They are back at work on great ocean-going vessels and they are happy. There is a sparkle in old eyes and a plentiful ripple of muscle in old arms.

The success of the wooden ship programme depends upon such men as these, upon their work and their instruction.

And is there a finer, cleaner job than the building of a ship? Do the young men who are being solicited for their services in the yards understand the tradition of shipbuilding and of American shipbuilding? If they do, the Government programme is safe.

The Suffrage Amendment.

The amendment to the Constitution of the State of New York which was approved and ratified by the people on Tuesday, and which has the effect of entitling women to vote under the same conditions as men, reads as follows:

"Every citizen of the age of twenty-one years who shall have been a citizen for ninety days, and an inhabitant of this State one year next preceding an election, and for the last four months a resident of the county and for the last thirty days a resident of the election district in which he or she may offer his or her vote, shall be entitled to vote at such election in the election district of which he or she shall at the time be a resident, and not elsewhere, for all officers that now are or hereafter may be elective by the people, and upon all questions which may be submitted to the vote of the people, provided, however, that a citizen by marriage shall have been an inhabitant of the United States for five years; and provided that in time of war no elector in the actual military service of the State, or of the United States, in the army or navy thereof, shall be deprived of his or her vote by reason of his or her absence from such election district; and the Legislature shall have power to provide the manner in which and the time and place at which such absent electors may vote, and for the return and canvass of their votes in the election districts in which they respectively reside."

This amendment is a reenactment of Section 1 of Article II. of the Constitution, as it previously stood, with such changes as were necessary to make it apply to women as well as men. The word "male" which has heretofore qualified the word "citizen" is omitted; the words "she" and "her" are introduced in the appropriate places; and the provision that a citizen by marriage, to be entitled to vote, must have been an inhabitant of the United States for five years, is new. This provision was inappropriate as long as only male citizens could vote; for only females can acquire citizenship by marriage.

The State Constitution provides in reference to amendments to that instrument that "if the people shall approve and ratify such amendment or amendments by a majority of the electors voting thereon, such amendment or amendments shall become a part of the Constitution from and after the first day of January next after such approval." The woman suffrage amendment, therefore will take effect on January 1, 1918.

Modern legislation in England and throughout the Union has made many changes in the ancient law of husband and wife, almost all of which have been in the direction of greater independence on the part of married women. Nevertheless, some of the old rules are still retained in American jurisprudence. One of these is the identity of the wife with her husband so far as citizenship is concerned. In a recent case decided no longer ago than in 1915 the Supreme Court of the United States said:

"The identity of husband and wife is an ancient principle of our jurisprudence. It was neither accidental nor arbitrary and worked in many instances for her protection. There has been, it is true, much relaxation of it, but its retention, as in its origin, is determined by their intimate relation and interest of interests, and this relation and interest may make it of public concern, in many instances, to merge their identity and give dominance to the husband."

Applying the doctrine thus stated, the Supreme Court held in the case in which this language was used that an American woman who married a

foreigner took the nationality of her husband; and accordingly it was decided that a California woman born in California and otherwise entitled to vote under the Constitution and laws of that State had lost the right by reason of her marriage to a subject of the Kingdom of Great Britain.

The converse of the rule applied in this California case would make a citizen of an alien woman who should marry a citizen of New York. The framers of the constitutional amendment which has just been adopted undoubtedly had this effect in mind when they inserted the provision that a citizen by marriage must have been an inhabitant of the United States for five years in order to entitle her to exercise the right of suffrage. They did not want a woman of foreign birth who had just come into this State to acquire the right to vote by marrying a New York husband; so it was evidently thought best to prescribe a period of residence in such cases as a condition precedent to the exercise of the right of suffrage.

There can be no doubt as to the wisdom of this provision. A foreigner before acquiring the right to vote should have lived in this country long enough to become thoroughly acquainted with its institutions.

The Railway Rate Hearing.

In the first day's hearing before the Interstate Commerce Commission on the application of the railroads for increased rates DANIEL WILLARD, president of the Baltimore and Ohio and chairman of the advisory committee of the Council of National Defense, was a witness.

Mr. WILLARD said he had advised the Baltimore and Ohio directors that they should maintain the road if it came to a choice between doing that and maintaining dividends.

Dividends were necessary to maintain railway credit, but tracks were necessary to move soldiers.

If the commission should grant all the increases the roads are asking, his road's income from the increased rates would fall short about \$10,000,000 of meeting the higher costs of labor, coal and material.

President REA of the Pennsylvania Railroad testified that coal was costing the road nearly double the sum it cost last year. In addition to the eight hour pay for trainmen, labor would require about \$14,000,000 more in wages than in 1916.

President UNDERWOOD of the Erie showed that his railroad's return on the investment had dropped from 4.96 per cent. in the year ending June 30, 1916, to 2.58 per cent. in the year ending June 30, 1917. His company had earned \$88,900,000 gross income and after skimming on upkeep it had \$2,111,000 left for betterments and debt extinction!

The receiver of the Boston and Maine said that the rate increase of 15 per cent. asked for would not cover the added expense of heavier payrolls.

Statistics were presented to show that for the New England roads increased cost of fuel and increased labor costs would require more than the raise of rates asked could possibly bring in.

To revert to Mr. WILLARD. The head of the Baltimore and Ohio admitted that the road ought to buy 5,000 cars and 100 locomotives, but it was useless to order them, as Government contracts kept every shop busy. Equipment was better than a year ago but labor was much less efficient. So fewer cars could be handled a day. He did not know whether there would be 5 per cent. for the common stock or not. The road had managed recently to borrow \$15,000,000 at 7 per cent. but would need more after the first of the year.

Perhaps as significant as anything in the day's proceedings was the announcement by counsel for shippers that the rate increase would not be opposed by them if the increases were made uniform.

The good purpose and the intelligence of the Interstate Commerce Commission is relied upon by the American people to grant the rate increase asked, an increase which, as shown, will in the case of many railways be insufficient to cover heightened expenses. It is not likely that the depreciation of railway property or the partial destruction of railway credit can be repaired while the war lasts. It will take years to undo the damage of years.

Prompt action by the commission and vigilance from now on can safeguard the present and future.

The German Plea of "Necessity."

A short article in the first number of the monthly *Inter-America* by RAMIRO DE MAESTRU, a Spanish journalist, has some interesting things to say about the German plea of "necessity" as applied to the German conduct of the war.

Señor MAESTRU accepts the definition of Nietzsche, or "need-right," fixed upon by the German encyclopaedist BROCKHAUS, as follows:

"The term 'law of necessity' is applicable to the supposed right to transgress the law in order to escape a danger that imperils one's own existence, when it is not possible to avoid it otherwise."

The Spanish writer proceeds to point out that "necessity never justifies an unjust act nor legalizes an illegal act," and that it can at most do no more than temper the responsibility of the doer for his deed. Necessity is not a matter of opinion, but "a juridical concept that has a very precise and strict meaning."

Now it is essential to this concept that a peril should exist, and a peril to self-existence, as BROCKHAUS puts it. And it is not sufficient, remarks

Señor MAESTRU, for a Government to proclaim necessity in violating the law of nations; it must demonstrate it. "Has Germany been able to justify the invasion of Belgium?" the Spaniard asks. No need to answer. And he goes on to remind us that even if Germany had shown or could show that invasion to have been necessary, she would still stand convicted of illegal action. Furthermore, necessity does not even mitigate the offense if it can be shown that the offender, by his earlier conduct, himself created the necessity.

On these correct premises it is easy enough to show, Señor MAESTRU declares, that:

"The Germans went to war because they desired to do so, and not at the impulse of necessity."

"They invaded Belgium, not from necessity, but because they believed it was the shortest way to Paris."

"They sent the Zeppelins upon London, not because of necessity, but because they imagined that with them they would terrify the people of England."

"They discharged their apocalyptic raves, not from necessity, but to assure victory."

"They ordered the unrestrained employment of submarines, not from necessity, but with the conviction that in a few months it would prevent the provisioning of England."

"They have spread desolation, upon retirement from the invaded territory of France, not from necessity, but for the purpose of terrifying the Allies and obliging them to make peace."

One plea remains, the plea of "biological necessity." Germany, we are told by her apologists in neutral countries, had an excess of population and had to find room for them—or graves. But the Spanish journalist points to Germany's rich and undeveloped colonies, to the 2,000,000 foreign laborers permanently employed within her borders, to the 1,000,000 Russians who were imported for harvesting and were made prisoners at the outbreak of the war, thus making possible the mobilization of millions of Germans than the French General Staff foresaw in its calculations.

The truth is that German "necessity" was the initial outrage of the war, contemporaneous with the invasion of Belgium, to justify which it was advanced as a plea in abatement. Like other false pleas of guilty men and nations, it can but serve to magnify the penalty the lawbreaker must ultimately pay.

Tammany now will have control of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment. The entire sixteen votes will be in its hands.

Sixteen votes on a rich town's chest—Yo-ho-ho, and a budget of fat!

Asbury Park has voted in favor of liquor licenses—under the State law none can be issued for drinking places within a mile of the camp meeting grounds at Ocean Grove—and Virginia Island rum may be shipped to us; yet the steamer of the liquor trade do not seem happy.

HILLQUIST's vote was Socialism's redoubtable minimum.

The button famine, due to the war, may teach some sneering cynics that the hook and eye were created for a purpose after all.

Massachusetts recognizes the high desirability of having a Governor capable, experienced, patriotic and broad minded, and naturally continues His Excellency SAMUEL W. MC CALL in the State House. The Old Bay State possesses a large number of admirable citizens, but among them is none more deserving of honors than the Governor who was elected on Tuesday to serve a third term.

This is still a man's world, perhaps, but if so it has grown a trifle smaller since Tuesday, November 6.

One of the Judges of Kings county has charged the November Grand Jury as to its duties with regard to spies, a proceeding entirely above criticism; but the Federal authorities are better equipped than those of the State to deal effectively with disloyal citizens and alien enemies.

There are indications that the German peace doves is about to scream again.

No conservatism has devised a cold pack method by which surplus pluralities may be kept for four years.

There are those who see in the election a stinging rebuke to the Grand Lama of Tibet for his refusal to wear purple shoestrings.

This is about the time of year when a New York Mayor-elect begins to wonder whether he would like the climates of Albany and Washington.

Thank heaven for a speechless day.

A Suggestion for Two Rye Bread Days a Week.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Your article "Having With Hoover" has prompted me to suggest the following:

If the United States Government ordered that on two days a week, say Monday and Thursday, or days to be adopted by bakers throughout the country, only rye bread should be baked, thousands of barrels of wheat flour could be saved.

I am sure the public would "take" it. When economy is to play a leading part in winning the war.

C. F. MANFIER.

New York, November 7.

The Slogan.

Unsold at the U. S. A.

Are drilling the trench by learning how to ask for chow and cigarettes in French.

We sling our parley voo around the nose premeditatedly.

With all the fine and fluent ease of natives of Paris.

But there is only just one word of German that we know:

We say it over day and night.

And everywhere we go.

It's all the word "Wein."

We need to know to win.

When we get over there in France, Our battle cry—Berlin!

MARIE KATZ.

SAVE SUGAR AND FLAVOR.

Double Blessings for the Man Who Serves His Country.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: We have suggested using little or no sugar in tea or coffee.

We have suggested using half the amount of sugar called for in recipes for cakes, pies, puddings, etc.

In following these suggestions we save sugar and retain an appreciation of the palatability of foods without excess of sweetening. We use too much flavoring matter as well, not realizing that a flavor is not perfect when it knocks you down, as it were, but only when we must with nicety of taste and small palate precision and a servicable smaller determine whether it be this, that or the other spice or flavor.

It gives added zest to dining to exercise our smelling or detective powers, or at any rate our analytical ability. If we rightly determine the flavor it tickles our palate as well as our palate. There is psychology for you! Needless to say, the same applies to perfumes, the excessive use of which means a waste of alcohol as well as an execrable taste.

But to get back to our sweet subject. The next suggestion we shall offer refers to cereals, the nation's breakfast dish, and to fruit, berries, etc.

Try to eat your oatmeal with half the amount of sugar you now scatter over it. By all the saints and prophets, we assure you that you will like the taste better. Let the old as well as the young taste their oats! This refers to you and you and you and to "me too." With other cereals try the same plan.

Not to mention fruits and berries when in season.

Why bury orange slices or the halved orange in sugar and lose almost all the orange taste proper?

Why hide the warm blush of the berries under the cold mantle of the snowy sugar, when just a sprinkling of it would suffice?

Why put so much sugar in lemonade that it no longer has the refreshing tartness?

Not only in speech, in replies, advice and so forth is tartness refreshing. A beverage which is too sweet will never quench the thirst of a thirsty man.

Save some sugar in this way for yourself, for our allies, for Uncle Sam and for us. DR. OTTO E. PERLWITZ.

New York, November 7.

SKY SIGNS AND COAL WASTE.

A Bill of Particulars in Tons of Coal Used is Called For.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Extinction of electric advertising signs should be ordered without delay. This is an absurd waste of energy.

In THE SUN of October 20 the statement of Mr. Lieb, vice-president of the National Garment Manufacturers Association, is saying that "the opinion of some people that these display signs represent a waste of energy is quite without foundation."

Let us ask Mr. Lieb how many bulbs he has devoted to this purpose, how much electricity is required for each bulb hourly, and what it costs his company to produce this current.

When a modest householder uses a few bulbs in a careful way and is surprised by his bill he is informed that the production of the electric current requires quantities of coal. Mr. Lieb's statement negates this theory.

There is no doubt that many women are making sacrifices and paying higher prices for woollen garments than they can afford, simply because they think it is fashionable; and if they can be impressed with the fact that it is their patriotic duty to save wool they will be glad to do so.

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